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CO 650 Theories of Personality: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

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CO650 Theories of Personality: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

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Fall 2002--3 semester units
Enrollment Limit: 12---MAC or MAPC only
Seminar: Tuesday, 2:30-3:45 pm
Symposium: 13-15 November 2002

Course Description

This seminar explores the relationship between recent findings in the neurosciences, traditional Christian understandings of the human person, and classic theories of personality. Several questions guide this seminar: How do the recent discoveries in neuroscience inform our contemporary understanding of human personality? In what ways does this perspective relate to classic theories of personality and traditional Christian understanding of personhood? What are the implications for professional and pastoral counseling?

Enrollment in the Seminar requires full participation in "Minds, Souls, Persons – A Symposium" (13-15 November 2002).

Prerequisites: CO601; ST501 or DO501 [may be taken concurrent with CO650]

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

- Explain classic psychological theories of personality;
- Describe traditional Christian understandings of the human person;
- Evaluate competing views of the human person in light of basic neuroscientific findings, biblical anthropology, and psychological theories of personality;
- Propose a coherent theory of personality that takes into consideration Christian perspectives and scientific findings;
- Explore the implications of these interactions for professional and pastoral counseling.

Course Reading -- Required

Brown, W., Murphy, N., and Maloney, N. (Eds). (1998). *Whatever happened to the soul? Scientific and theological portraits of human nature*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. (ca. 225 pages)

Conference papers, available from the instructor. (ca. 150 pages)

Hall, C.S., Gardner L. and Campbell, J. B. (1998). *Theories of Personality*, 4th Ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons. (ca. 650 pages)

Jeeves, M. A. (1997). *Human nature at the millennium: Reflections on the integration of psychology and Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. (ca. 250 pages)

Book Report Choices

Hasker, W. (1999). *The emergent self*. Ithaca/London: Cornell University Press. (ca. 225 pages)

Jeeves, M. A. (1997). *Human nature at the millennium: Reflections on the integration of psychology and Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. (ca. 250 pages)

Course Requirements

1. **Seminar Preparation, Attendance, and Participation:** Attendance at and readiness to participate in all sessions of the Seminar is expected. Beginning in October pairs of students will be assigned to present a designated theory of personality to the class for the first half of the period. Subsequent class discussion will examine the theory in terms of its relationship to neuroscientific discoveries and Christian understandings of personhood. Students who do not present will submit a written evaluation of that theory according to criteria established during the first weeks of class (600-650 word, 2-3 pages, with a standard 12-point font, & one-inch margins, typed, double spaced, due each week). In order to complete the course with a passing grade, no more than four class sessions may be missed. (15%)
2. **Symposium Reflections:** A log with critical reflections/questions documenting your full participation in and engagement with the presentations associated with “Minds, Souls, Persons – A Symposium” (13-15 November 2002): approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e, 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font, & one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of class, 21 November 2002. (20%)
3. **Objective Exams on Theories of Personality:** An objective mid-term (October 15) and final exam (December 12, finals week) covering class lectures and the content of Hall et al. (25%)
4. **Critical Review:** A review of either Hasker or Jeeves, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of class, 5 November 2002. This review should summarize the author’s central theses; demonstrate the author’s approach to the subject matter; and critique the author’s analysis (e.g., with regard to the author’s method, faithfulness to primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on.) See also: Intranet\Students\Lecture Power Points\Green\Course Assignments\Book Reviews. (20%)
5. **Integration Paper:** Propose a coherent theory of personality that takes into consideration Christian perspectives and scientific findings (6-8 pages, typed-double spaced). Due at the beginning of class on Dec. 3, 2002. (20%)

Course Policies

- All written material should conform to style and form set forth in the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association, 5th Ed.
- Students should submit written material on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized.
- Incompletes denote that the work of a course has not been completed due to an **unavoidable emergency**, which does **not** include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. Please plan your time accordingly.

Course Schedule

3 Sept	Introduction to the Course; Brown, et al.,
10 Sept	Theological and Scientific Approaches to Personhood Brown, et al., Ch. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10
17 Sept	Social Psychological Theories [Dr. Palmer]
24 Sept	Ego Psychology – Erikson [Dr. Holeman]
1 Oct	Murray & Allport
8 Oct	Catell
15 Oct	Mid-Term on Oct. 15 Paper discussion on Oct. 17
22 Oct	Kelly
29 Oct	Rogers
5 Nov	Jeeves & Hasker article Brown et al., Ch. 4 Critical Review of Hasker text or Jeeves due on Nov. 5
13-15 Nov	Symposium Symposium papers
19 Nov	Skinner & Dollard & Miller Symposium Refection due Nov. 21
28 Nov	Reading Week – no class!
3 Dec	Social Learning Theories Integration Paper Due Dec. 3
12 Dec	Final Exam on Dec. 12, 1-3 pm